

Oregon Daily Emerald



Weather forecast

Today Showers
High 53, Low 37

Thursday Showers
High 46, Low 37

ASUO candidates speak out

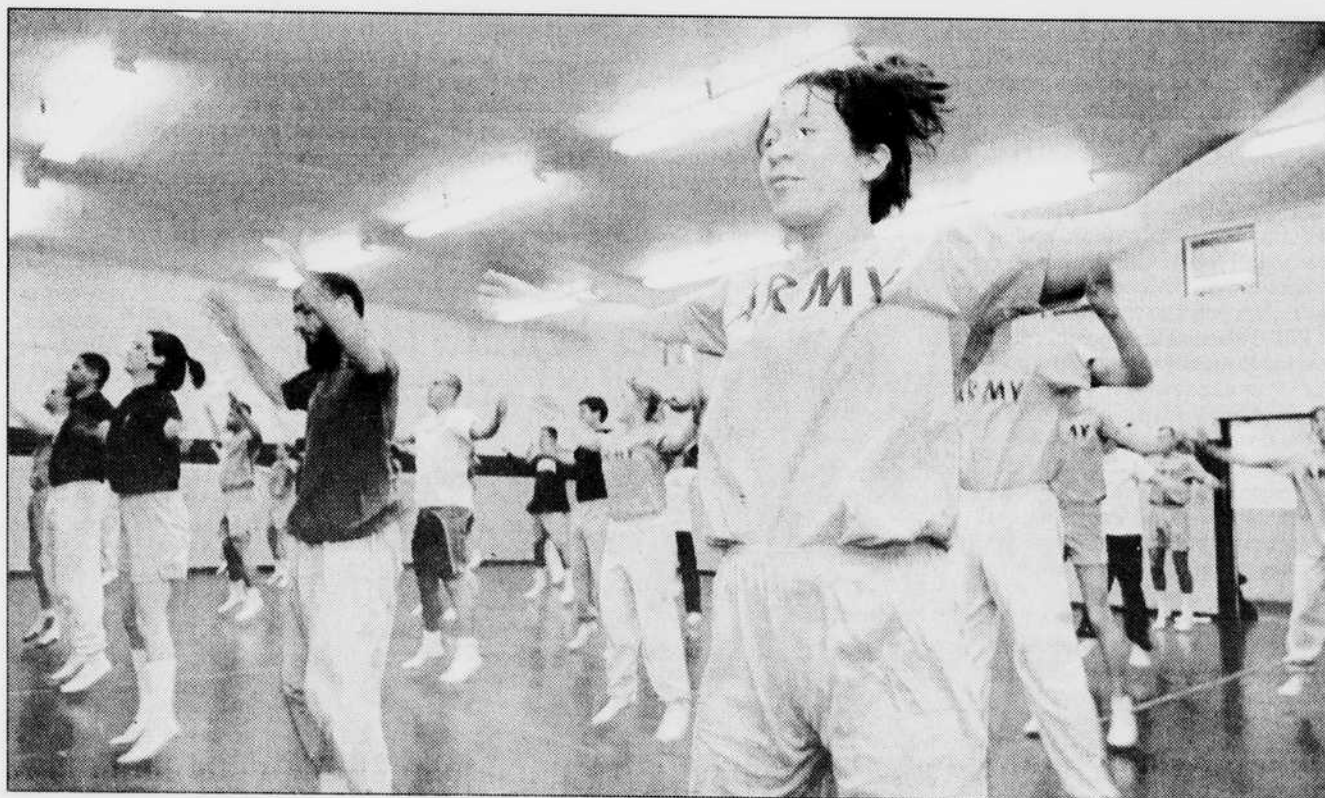
The office-seekers have big plans for the future of the University and the organization of the ASUO/PAGE 3

Women's tennis

Led by Andrea Petrovic, the Ducks hope to overcome tough competitors/PAGE 9



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Senior Indira Rice does jumping jacks with her morning ROTC class in Esslinger. Rice is a member of the Army ROTC program on campus, which pays for her college education in exchange for her enrollment in the armed forces after graduation. Rice will begin her four-year commitment in September. *Nick Medley/Emerald*

Play touts non-violent message

'Bang, Bang, You're Dead' is based on school shootings and hopes to avert more tragedies

By Tricia Schwennessen
Oregon Daily Emerald

Shots rang out from somewhere in the distance.

The sound found its way to some history students studying the Korean War at Thurston High School. In the previous week, they had watched several graphic films that featured bloodshed and shooting violence.

But these shots were different — they weren't movie blanks but shots fired from near the school. Investigators were never able to find out from where or by whom.

The random shots fired last December, just prior to finals week, were not an unfamiliar sound to Thurston students.

They had already joined the ranks of school-yard shootings May 21, 1998, when 15-year-old Kipland Kinkel opened fire in the school cafeteria killing 2 classmates and injuring 23 others. Police later found both his parents dead at their family home.

Thurston students are hearing shots again today.

This time the shots are part of a play. "Bang, Bang, You're Dead," a play initiated by the Thurston shootings but a composite of several school shootings and youth violence, will premiere today at 5 p.m. at the Hult Center. Tickets are sold out.

"First of all, the play is not about Thurston and the shooting at Thurston," said play producer Celeste Anlauf. "There are parts of this play that come from everywhere."

Playwright Bill Mastrosimone said the play is meant to be a tool to help kids help one another.

Thurston students helped the playwright develop his idea and are starring in the current production.

The central character in the play is a boy named Josh who shoots five of his classmates and his parents.

"The kids come back to haunt him like

Turn to THURSTON, Page 4

In the army now

The ROTC program offers both leadership experience and scholarship possibilities

By Erin Snelgrove
Oregon Daily Emerald

After donning freshly ironed fatigues and shiny black boots, University seniors Indira Rice and David Nash start their days before sunrise. In addition to juggling their time between work, school and extracurricular activities, Rice and Nash also have responsibilities that are not common to most college students.

They have to know how to salute properly and how to take apart an M16. They plan field training exercises, and they discipline their subordinates. They do these things because they are members of the Army ROTC, an organization that pays for

their college educations in exchange for committing themselves to the armed forces after graduation.

Because they each received an ROTC scholarship, the army pays for all their college expenses. However, this gift is not without a price. Starting next fall, they will both begin serving as officers in the military.

"They've given me a lot of money, and they really expect me to show them what I can do," Rice said. "Once you sign on the dotted line, you need to be sure. If you're not, don't do it. You let a lot of people down if you end up dropping out."

Rice will begin her four-year commitment in September. Nash, on the

other hand, will serve one year in the army before he begins medical school. After he finishes his education, he will be a physician for the armed forces for about nine years.

"The ROTC is a stepping stone for me," Nash said. "It will continue to pay for medical school while also giving me a monthly stipend. I don't know of very many organizations that pay you to go to school, but this one does."

More than 350 University students take Military Science courses. However, only 22 of them are currently receiving an ROTC scholarship.

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Westmoreland residents fed up with crime problem

Residents say that security is lacking in the University-run family housing complex

By Michael Hines
Oregon Daily Emerald

Shelly Richardson had known for a couple years that crime was a problem in Westmoreland Family Housing, but she became fed-up with it all when a former University football player reportedly assaulted several of her neighbors last month.

It was March 13 when former Ducks wide receiver Damon Grif-

fin told Eugene police he was high on "shrooms" and attacked several Westmoreland residents, according to police. Eugene police eventually restrained him and charged him on four counts, including one count of attempted assault.

That was enough for the Westmoreland Tenants Council to ask representatives from the Eugene police, University Office of Public Safety and University Housing to attend its monthly meeting last week.

"It's that idea that people feel they can come in here whenever they feel like it," said Richardson, a Westmoreland resident. "I feel

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